

Serial No. 10/726,461
Attorney Docket No. 24170759.2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)(i), with any mark-ups showing the changes made by the present Amendment.

1. (Currently amended) A wet-laid fiber article, comprising:
a first surface comprising a pattern formed of wet-laid fibers directionally aligned in a plurality of crossing linear formations; and
a second surface opposed to the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of randomly dispersed wet-laid fibers..
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.
5. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.
6. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

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7. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, further comprising a binder material distributed among the directionally aligned and randomly dispersed fibers.
8. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 7, wherein the fiber article comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.
9. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 7, wherein the binder material comprises an organic compound.
10. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 9, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
11. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers constitute about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber article.
12. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the fiber article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber article is binder material.

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13. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 12, wherein an overall thickness of the fiber article is about 0.035 inches, and the directionally aligned fibers comprise a thickness in the article of about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.
14. (Presently amended) A wet-laid fiber article, comprising:
a first surface comprising a pattern formed of wet-laid fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions; and
a second surface opposed to the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of randomly dispersed wet-laid fibers.
15. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.
16. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.
17. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

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18. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, and further comprising a binding material dispersed substantially throughout the fiber article for binding the fibers in their dispersed orientations.
19. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 18, wherein the binding material is an organic compound, and wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.
20. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers comprising the first surface are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the two or more predetermined directions.
21. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the fibers of the first surface that are horizontally dispersed in predetermined directions constitute about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber article.
22. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fiber article has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test of about 393g mean tears when the fiber article has a weight of 1.6 lb/sq. and when 15% of the weight of the fiber article is binder material.
23. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 22, wherein an overall thickness of the fiber article is about 0.035 inches, and the fibers of the first surface that are horizontally

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dispersed in predetermined directions comprise a thickness in the article of about 0.002 to 0.010 inches.

24. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers of the first surface and the fibers of the second surface are collectively, horizontally dispersed to a substantially uniform thickness.

25. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises about 5% to 30% of a total weight of the fiber article.

26 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A fiber article according to claim 1, wherein the directionally aligned fibers comprising the first surface have an overall thickness substantially equal to a thickness of one of the linear formations.

52. (Currently amended) A fiber material according to claim 20, wherein the wet-laid fibers horizontally dispersed in two or more predetermined directions comprising the first surface have a substantially uniform overall thickness when dispersed in the two or more predetermined directions.